THE ANCIENT CITY OF GUIR.

THE WAR HALL OF GENERAL TOR.

GLAD TO SEE YOU ARE STILL IN ONE PIECE. ANY PROBLEMS?

CHAPTER 17

WRITER/ARTIST/CREATOR
KARL ALTSTAETTER

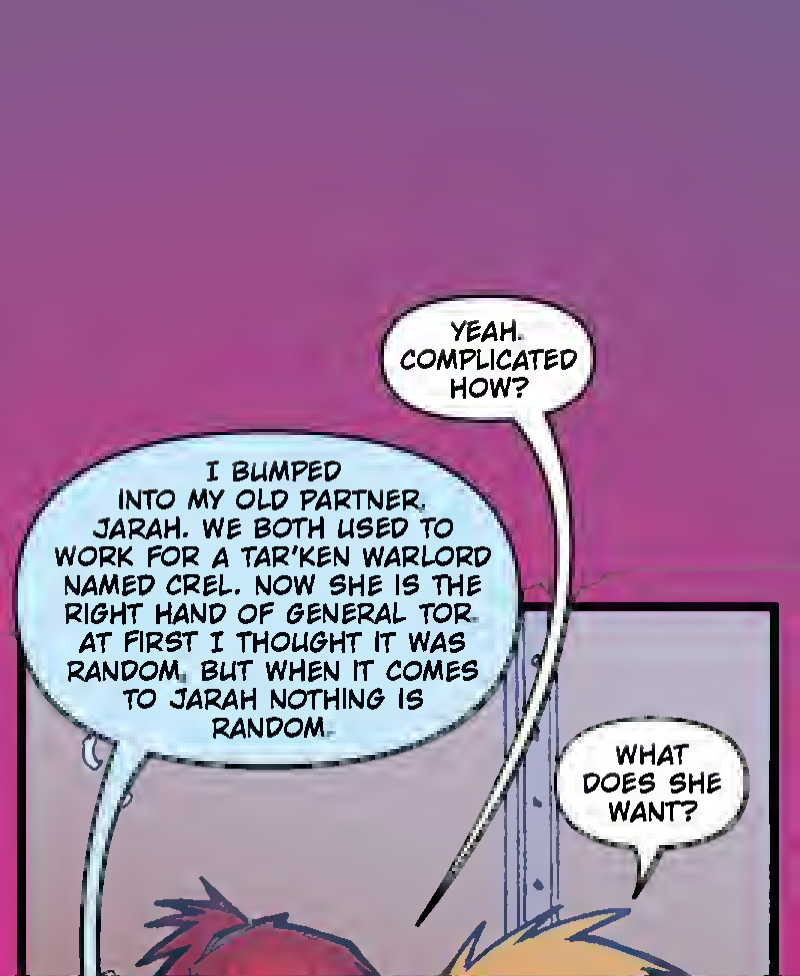
COLORS
KOMIKAKI STUDIO
FEATURING KEVIN LIEW

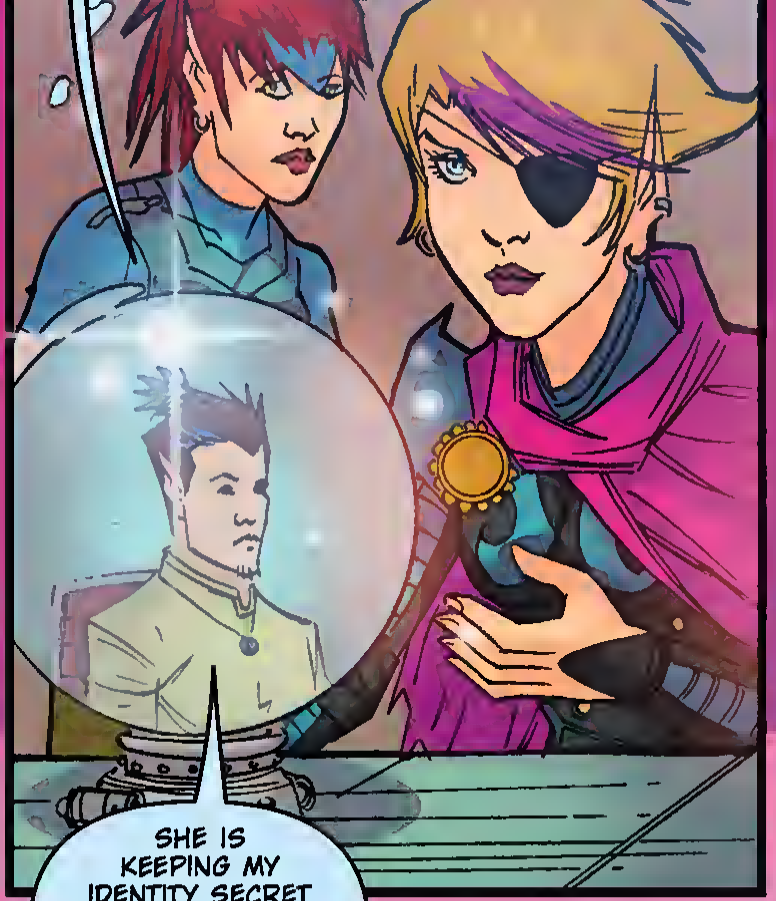
LETTERS

LETTERS
TAYLOR ESPOSITO

EDITOR
TOM AKEL

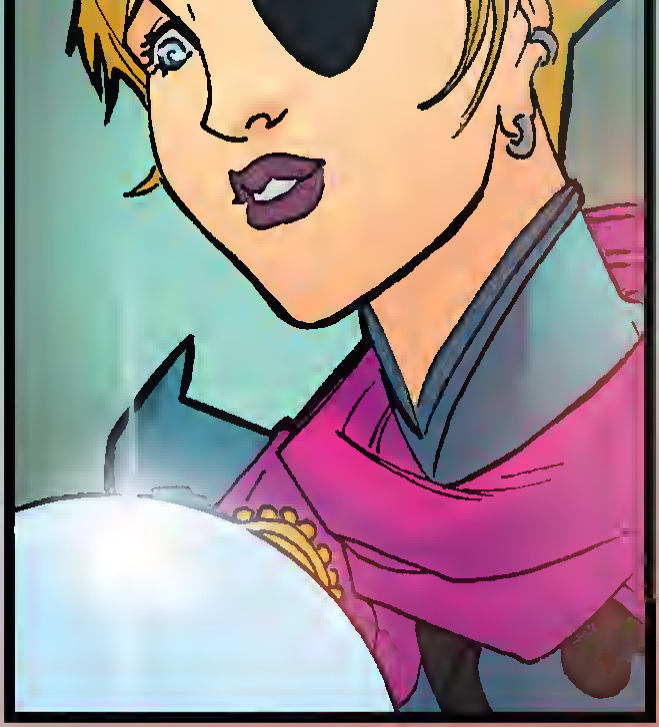
THE IDENTITY IS HOLDING UP BUT THINGS HAVE GOTTEN A BIT MORE COMPLICATED.
COMPLICATED HOW?


YEAH. COMPLICATED HOW?
I BUMPED INTO MY OLD PARTNER, JARAH. WE BOTH USED TO WORK FOR A TAR'KEN WARLORD NAMED CREL. NOW SHE IS THE RIGHT HAND OF GENERAL TOR. AT FIRST I THOUGHT IT WAS RANDOM, BUT WHEN IT COMES TO JARAH NOTHING IS RANDOM.
WHAT DOES SHE WANT?


SHE IS KEEPING MY IDENTITY SECRET AND IN EXCHANGE I'M HELPING HER ESCAPE

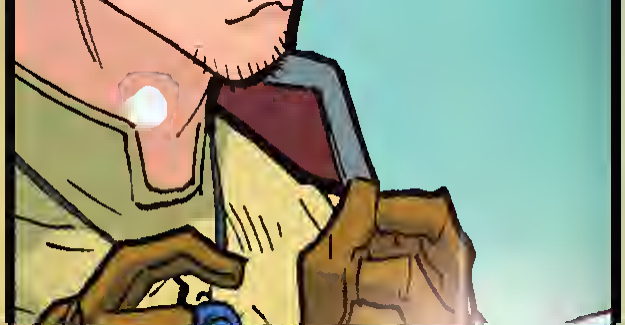
THIS GENERAL TOR JERK.

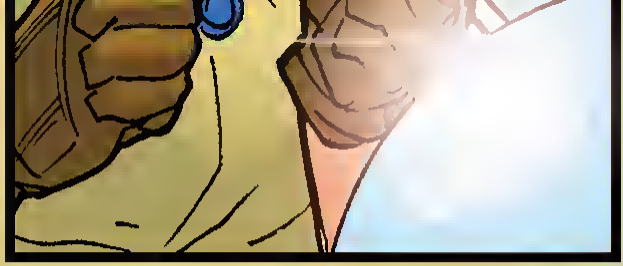
COMPLICATED IS RIGHT. I DON'T LIKE THIS. I WANT YOU OUT OF THERE. WE'LL FIND A DIFFERENT WAY TO RESCUE THE MAGIC USER.



PARTNER? LIKE BUDDIES OR GIRLFRIEND?

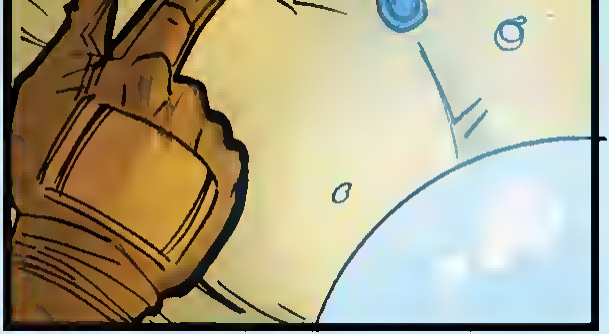
A BIT OF COLUMN A AND A BIT OF COLUMN B. DID I MENTION SHE TRIED TO KILL ME ONCE? WELL, ACTUALLY MORE THAN ONCE.

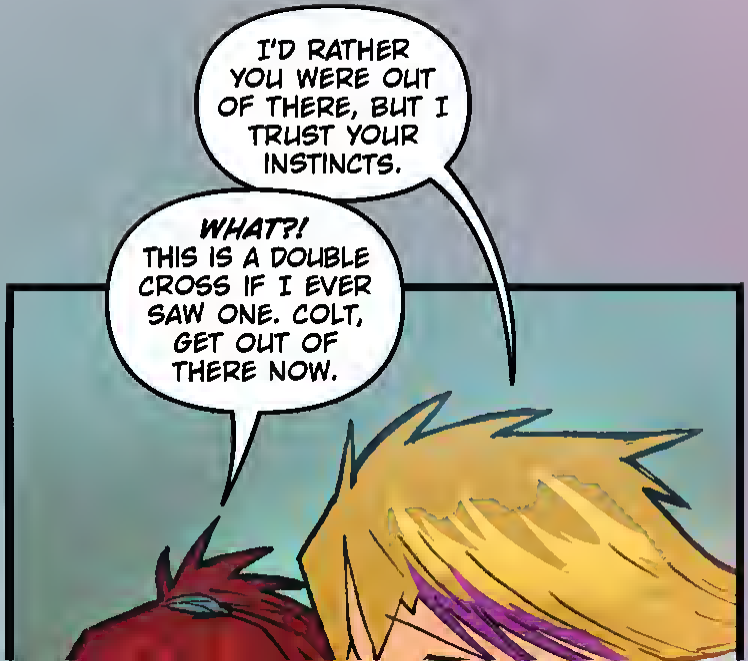




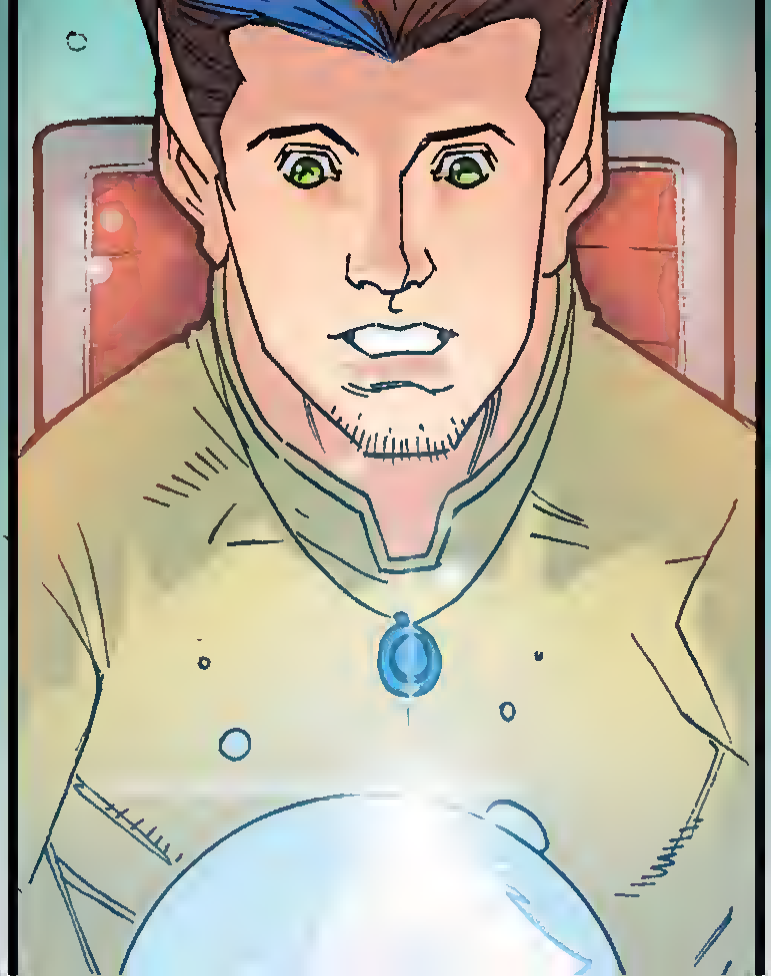
D'CLO, I GOT THIS. I'M NOT READY TO GIVE UP. I KNOW JARAH,

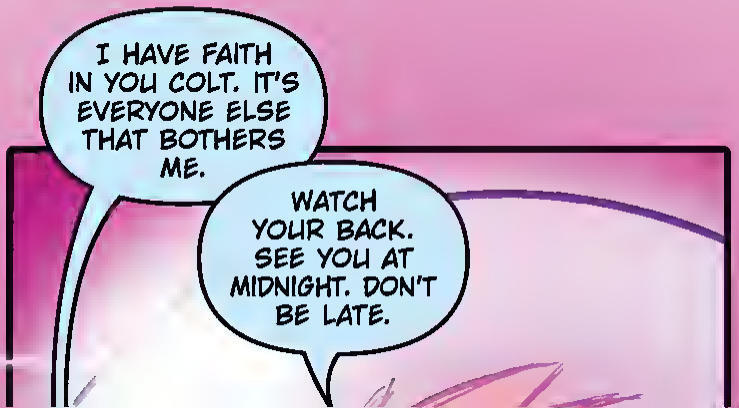
AND SHE HAS MORE AT STAKE THAN A ESCAPING A BAD RELATIONSHIP. SHE'LL STICK TO THE PLAN. IT'S A WIN-WIN.

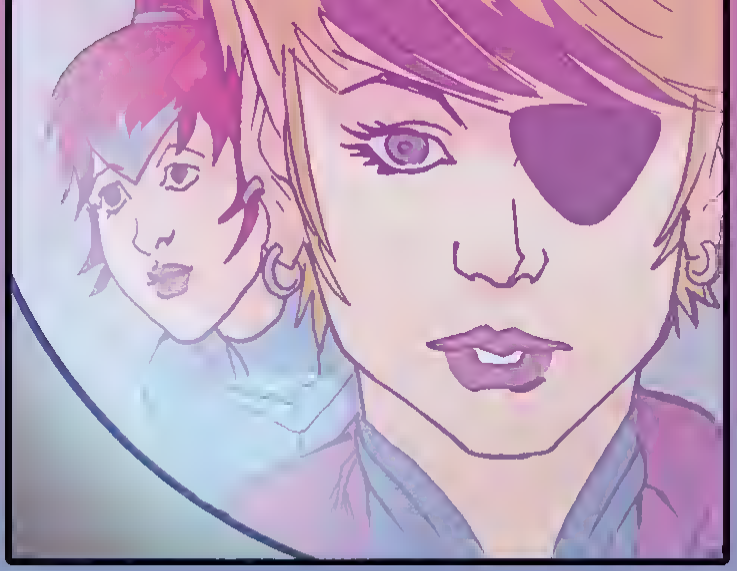


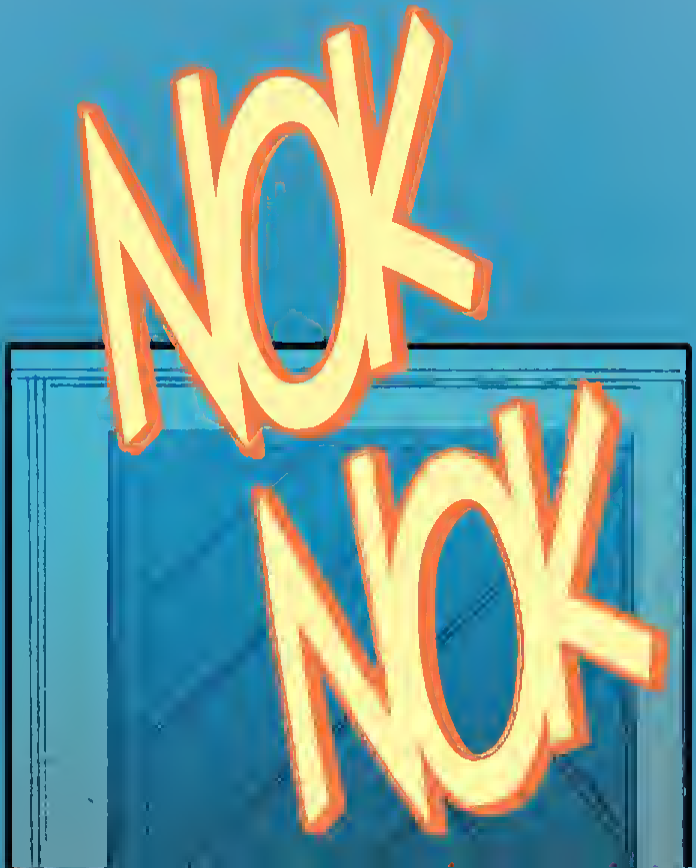

I'D RATHER YOU WERE OUT OF THERE, BUT I TRUST YOUR INSTINCTS.
WHAT?! THIS IS A DOUBLE CROSS IF I EVER SAW ONE. COLT, GET OUT OF THERE NOW.

JESS,
HAVE A LITTLE FAITH. BEFORE WE MET I WAS A DIFFERENT PERSON. I DID JOBS LIKE THIS IN MY SLEEP. I'M NOT GOING TO LET A FEW BUMPS IN THE ROAD KILL OUR OPPORTUNITY AT RESCUING THIS MAGIC USER.




I HAVE FAITH IN YOU COLT. IT'S EVERYONE ELSE THAT BOTHERS ME.
WATCH YOUR BACK. SEE YOU AT MIDNIGHT. DON'T BE LATE.

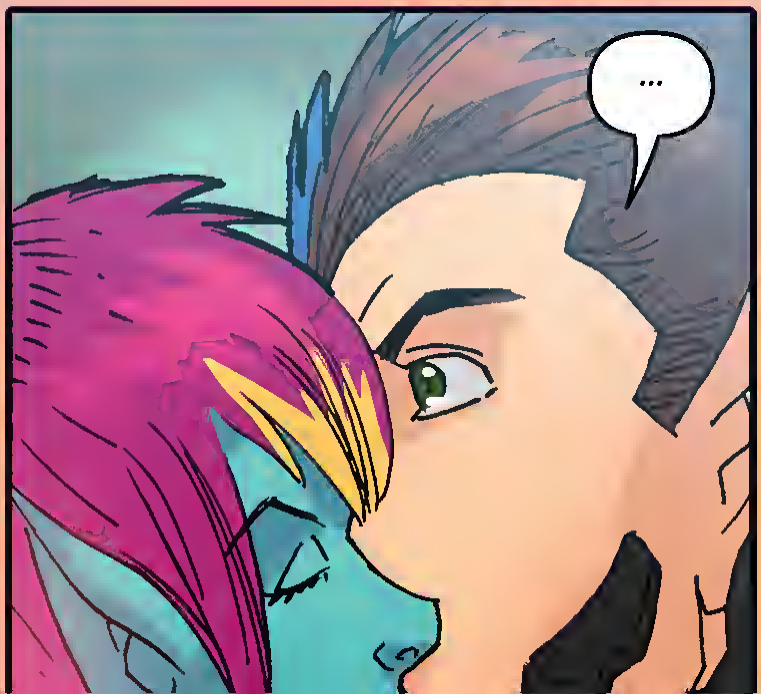



NOK
NOK

WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?
CAN I COME IN?

SMOOCH

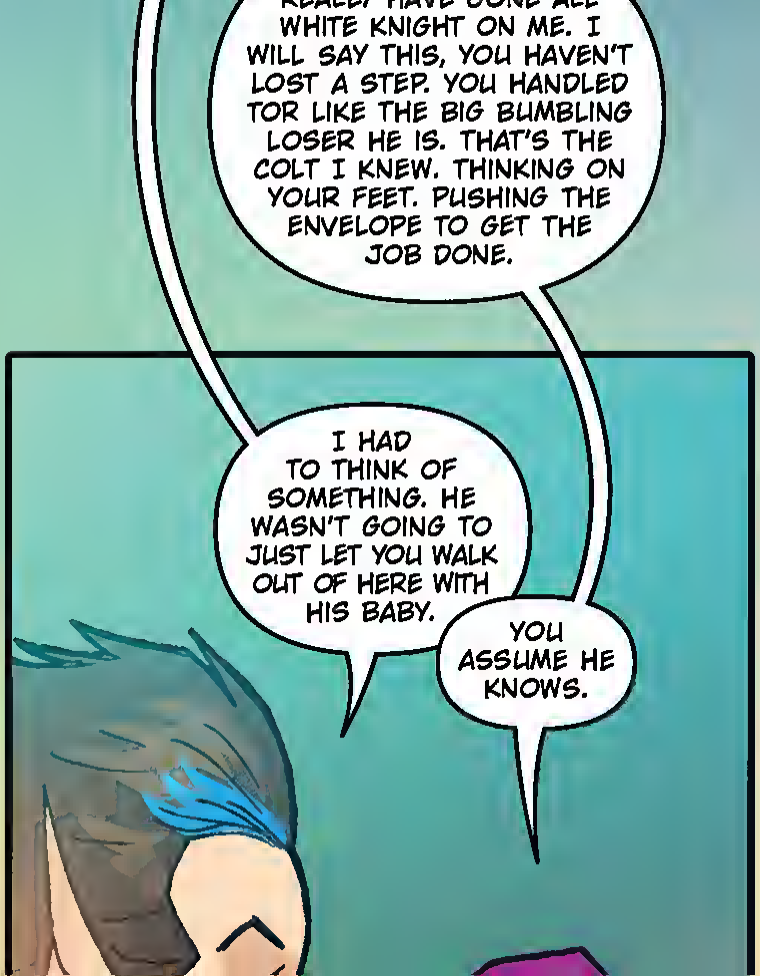
SMOOCH



WHAT WAS THAT FOR?
CONSIDER IT A PERK OF OUR PARTNERSHIP.

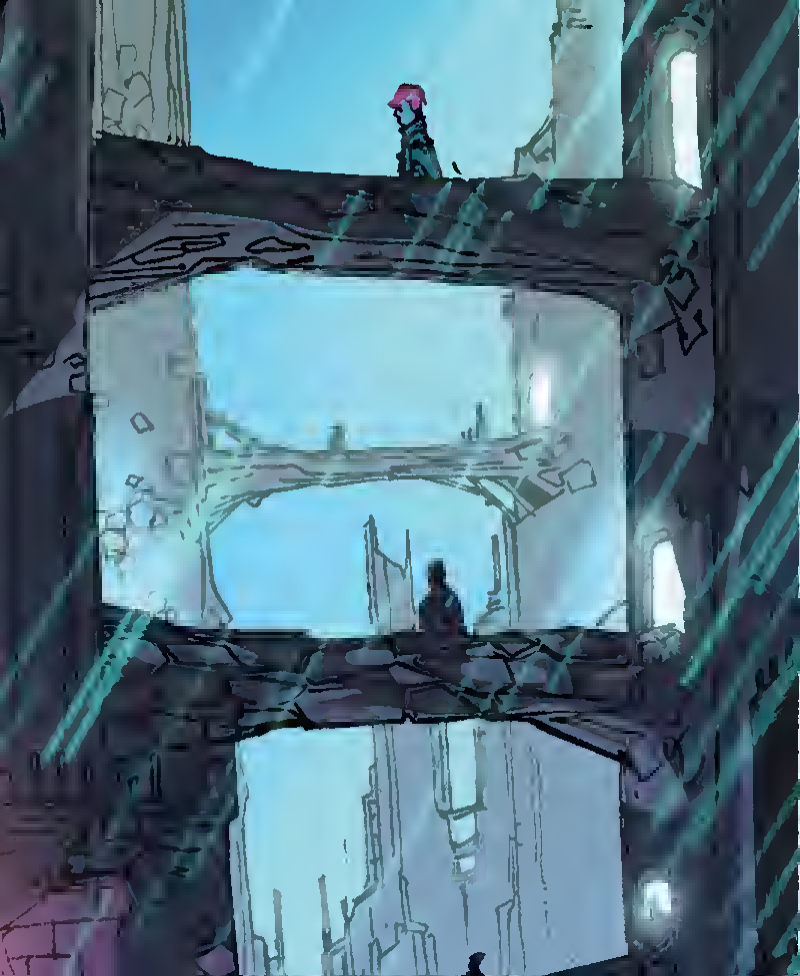
I'M NOT INTERESTED IN YOUR "PERKS." LET'S KEEP IT PROFESSIONAL.

WOW, YOU


REALLY HAVE GONE ALL WHITE KNIGHT ON ME. I WILL SAY THIS, YOU HAVEN'T LOST A STEP. YOU HANDLED TOR LIKE THE BIG BUMBLING LOSER HE IS. THAT'S THE COLT I KNEW. THINKING ON YOUR FEET. PUSHING THE ENVELOPE TO GET THE JOB DONE.
I HAD TO THINK OF SOMETHING. HE WASN'T GOING TO JUST LET YOU WALK OUT OF HERE WITH HIS BABY.
YOU ASSUME HE KNOWS.

YOU PLAY EVERYONE DON'T YOU?
DON'T ASK QUESTIONS YOU ALREADY KNOW THE ANSWERS TO.

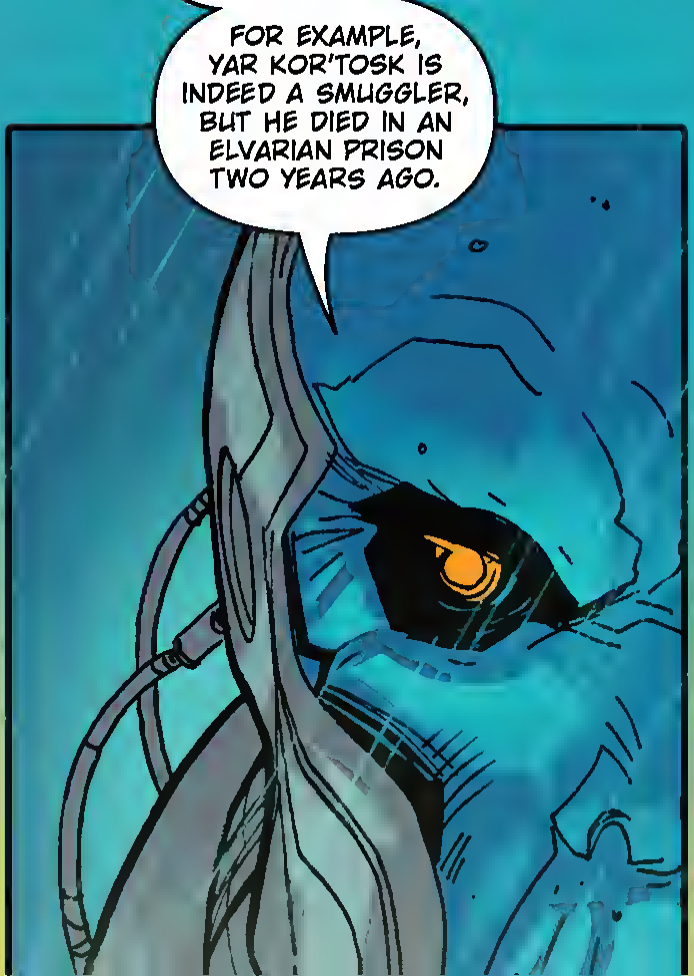
SEE YOU AT MIDNIGHT "PARTNER".



SHOULDN'T YOU BE PACKING FOR YOUR TRIP TO KARTENITH?

LAR, DON'T YOU EVER GET TIRED OF BEING CREEPY?

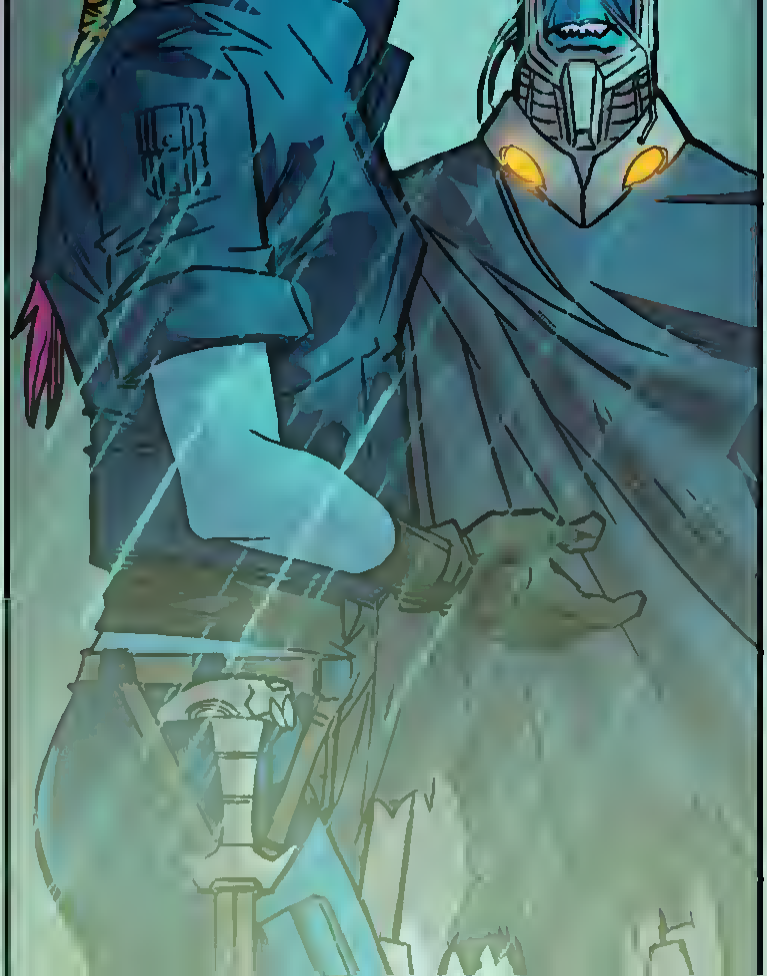
IT'S MY JOB. I'M CREEPY AND I KNOW THINGS.

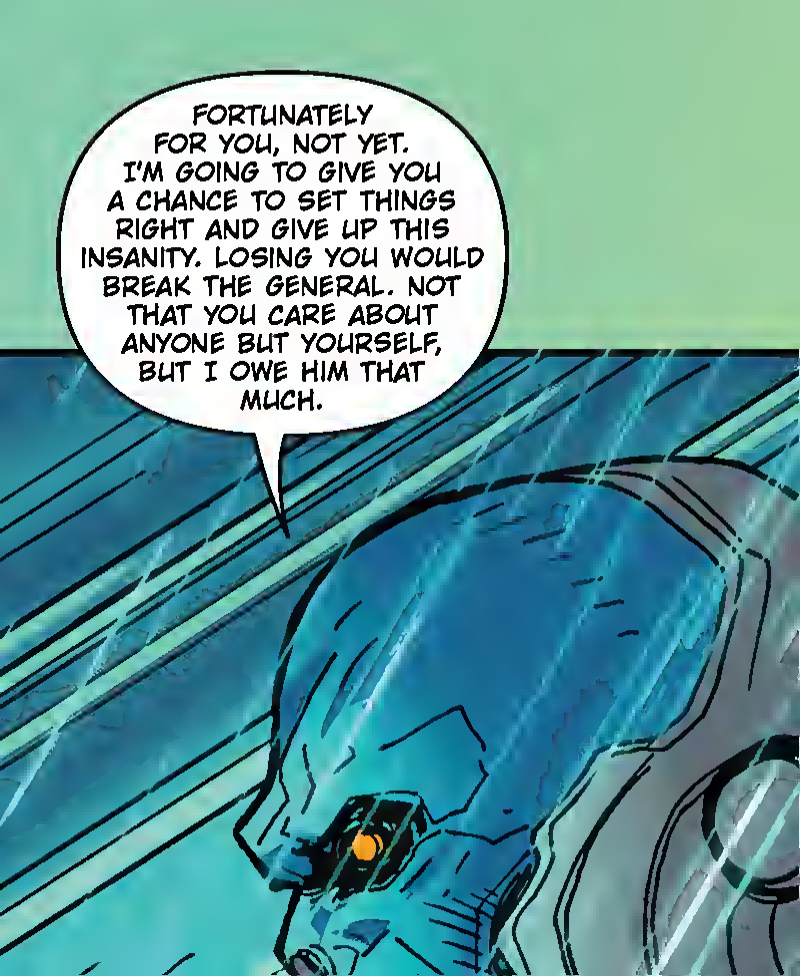

FOR EXAMPLE, YAR KOR'TOSK IS INDEED A SMUGGLER, BUT HE DIED IN AN ELVARIAN PRISON TWO YEARS AGO.

THEN WHO IS THIS GUY CALLING HIMSELF KOR'TOSK?

PLAYING DUMB

DOESN'T SUIT YOU. DOES THE NAME COLT CONNORS BRING BACK ANY MEMORIES? I ASSUME YOU AND YOUR OLD PARTNER ARE GOING TO TAKE THE MONEY AND THE MAGIC USER AND RUN. NOT EXACTLY AN ORIGINAL PLAN.
WELL, IT LOOKS LIKE YOU'VE CAUGHT ME. ALTHOUGH COLT IS AS CLUELESS AS TOR. HE FELL INTO THIS BY PURE ACCIDENT. HAVE YOU TOLD TOR ABOUT MY LITTLE PLAN?




FORTUNATELY FOR YOU, NOT YET. I'M GOING TO GIVE YOU A CHANCE TO SET THINGS RIGHT AND GIVE UP THIS INSANITY. LOSING YOU WOULD BREAK THE GENERAL. NOT THAT YOU CARE ABOUT ANYONE BUT YOURSELF, BUT I OWE HIM THAT MUCH.

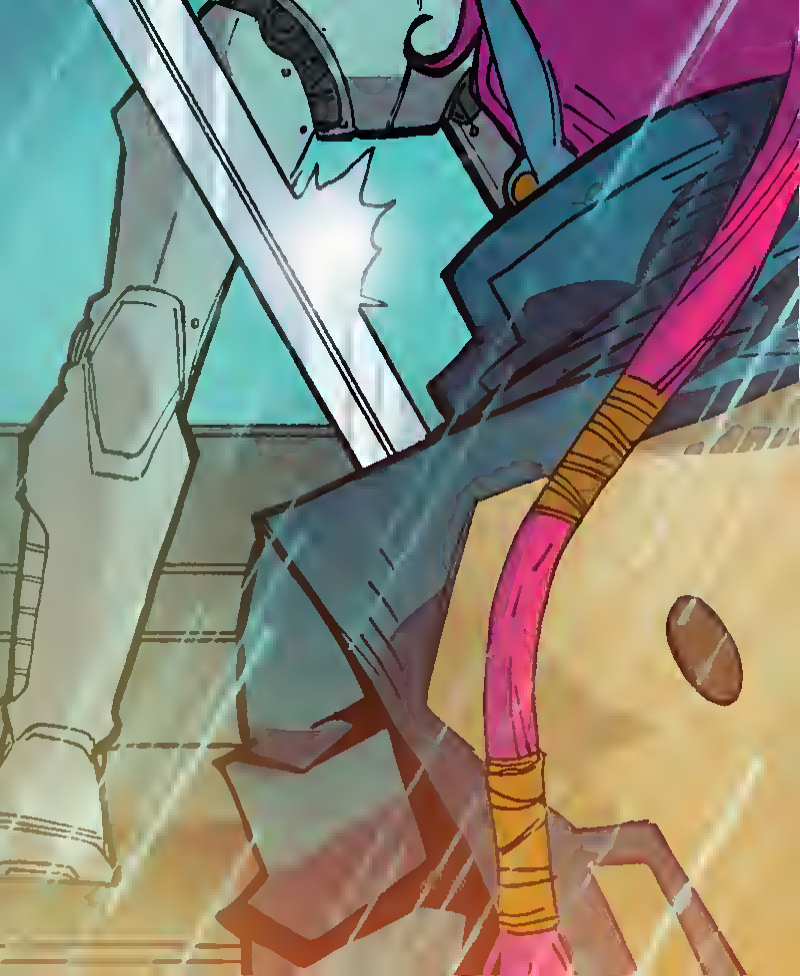
EVERYONE THINKS THEY KNOW ME SO WELL. I'M LEAVING TONIGHT AND YOU ARE NOT GOING TO TELL TOR ANYTHING ABOUT WHAT YOU KNOW.

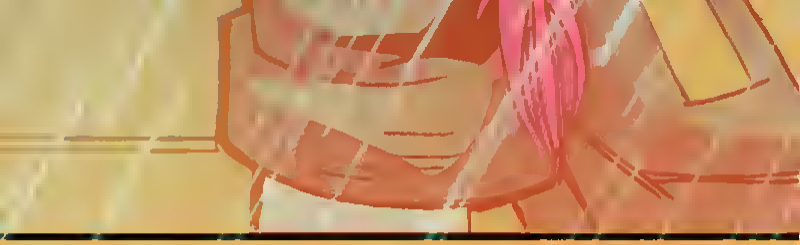
I CAN'T DO THAT.

I WASN'T ASKING.

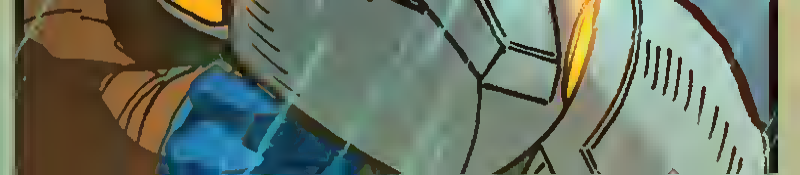
ARGHHH!

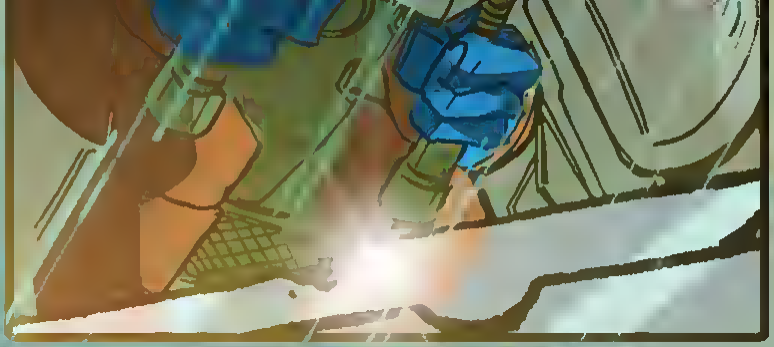
SHAK





DON'T MAKE ME HURT YOU, JARAH.





SO THOUGHTFUL. HOW ABOUT YOU JUST SHUT YOUR MOUTH.

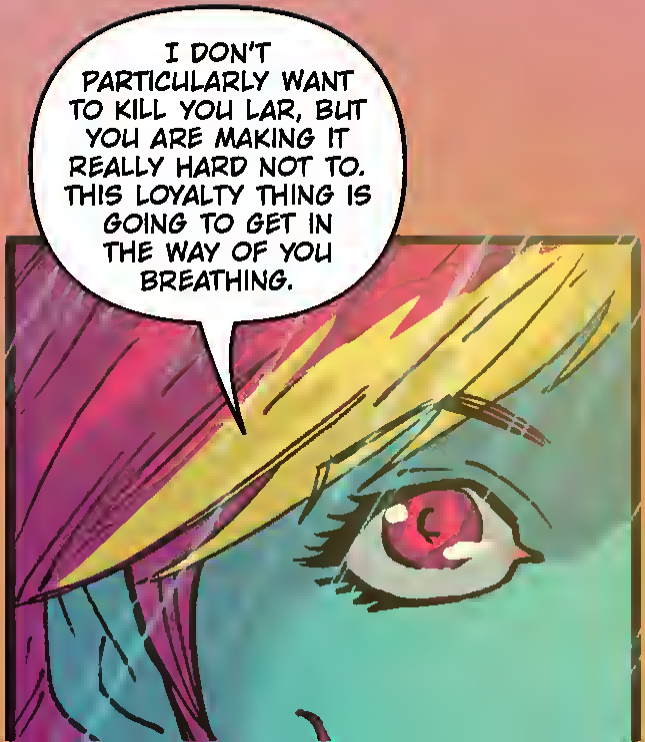
SHU

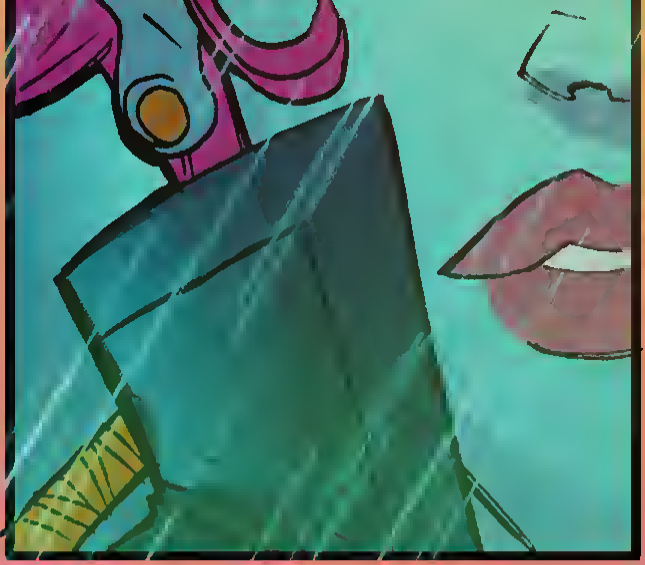
SMACK!

SHOW
WHEN TOR FOUND YOU, YOU WERE SECONDS AWAY FROM BEING EXECUTED BY CREL AND HIS WARRIORS. TOR GAVE YOU A NEW LIFE AND THIS IS HOW YOU REPAY HIM?

IT WASN'T HIS LIFE TO GIVE *OR* TAKE! *MY* LIFE, *MY* FUTURE, IS *MY* OWN! I DON'T OWE HIM *ANYTHING!*

TOR GETS MORE LOYALTY FROM HIS WAR DOGS.


I DON'T PARTICULARLY WANT TO KILL YOU LAR, BUT YOU ARE MAKING IT REALLY HARD NOT TO. THIS LOYALTY THING IS GOING TO GET IN THE WAY OF YOU BREATHING.



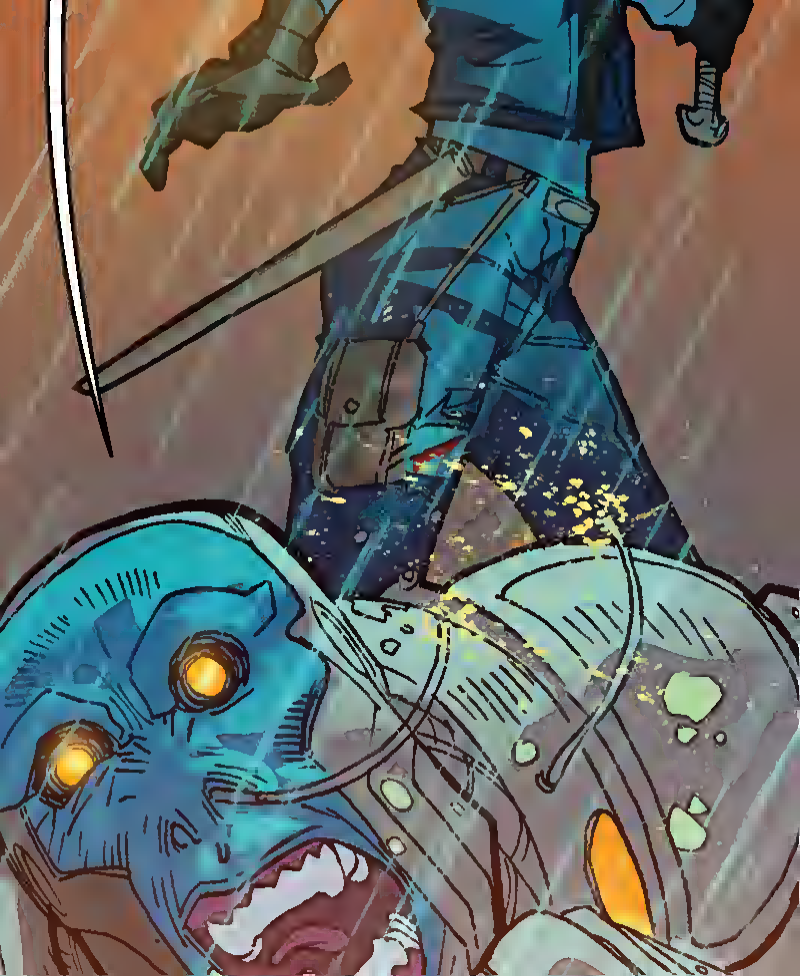
AGHHHH!

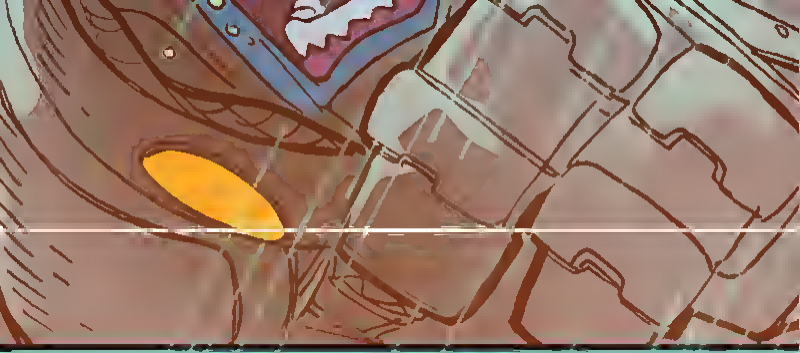
SHRA

NOOOO...
SHKKK

SUFFER YOUR FATE!
ghug...

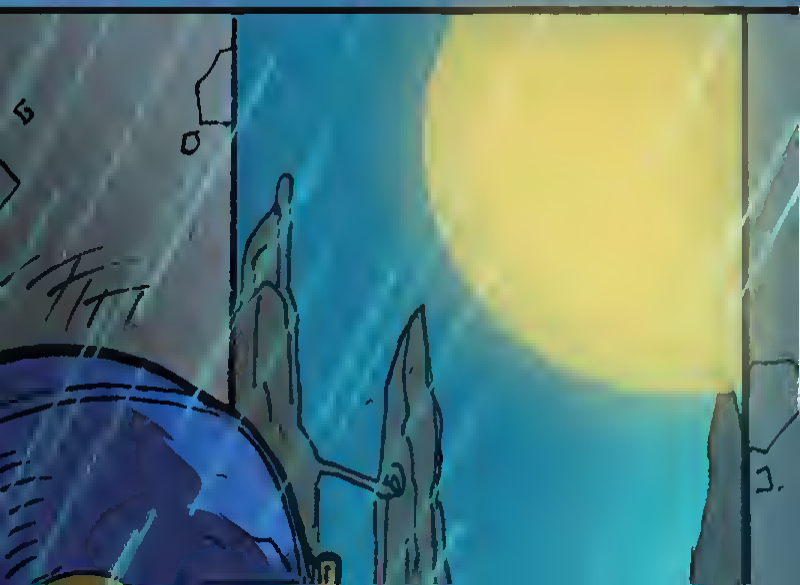
HE...
HE...LOVED
YOU...

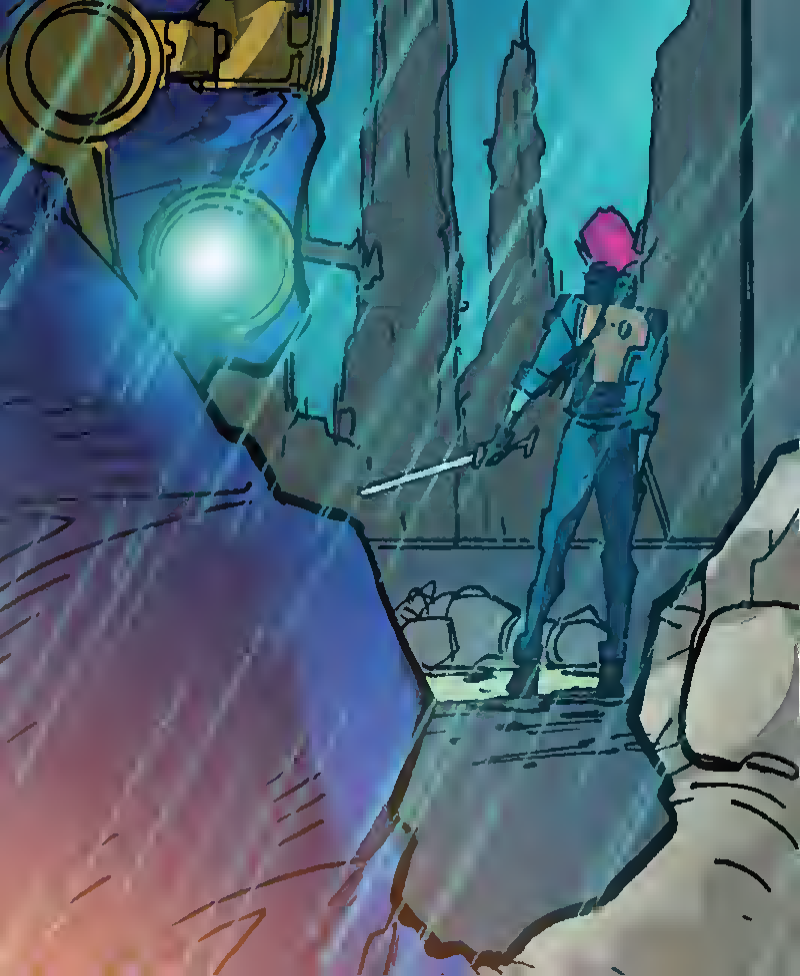


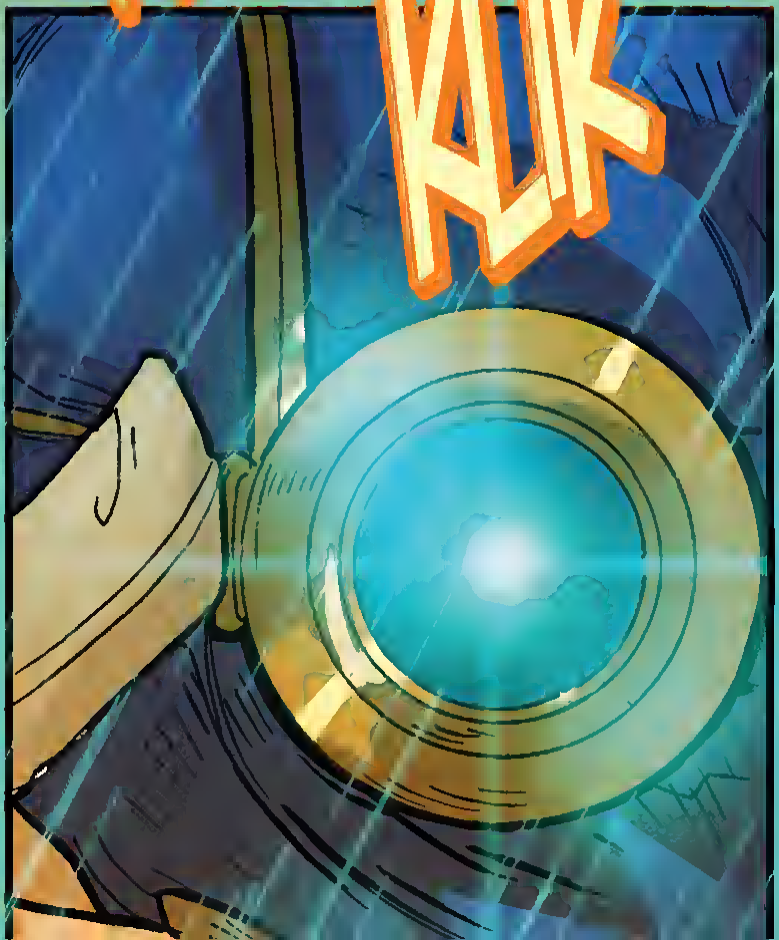


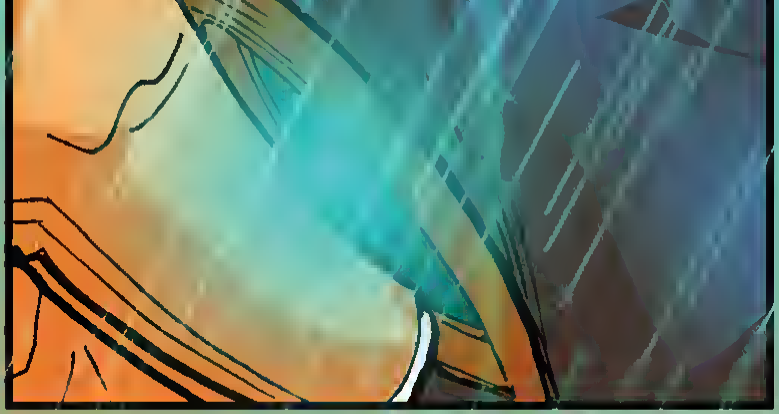
QUIET NOW. THE GODS ARE WAITING.

...






KLIK



KLIK

NEXT EPISODE: LORDS OF TA'IKEN

PART 05